T.B., .have been consuming forty to forty(five percent <pf wforldl^ Rifam-picin production;

(e) if so, the steps taken oy the Government to ensure availability of the said and T.B. drug in adequate quantity, for treatment of the patients;

(f) the details of Rifampian manufacturers in the country with category wise details of the MNCs and other large scale manufacturers and those in the small scale sector; and

(g) the quantity of Rifampicin and the. respective units that manufactured the same during April-June, 1994 and during the corresponding period las(year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. Rifampicin is an important anti T.B. drug which is manufactured from intermediate Ritas' also which is imported in accordance with the Government Policy and is now also being indigenously manufactured.

(b) No, Sir. The policy has been announced on 26.7.1994.

(c) Does not arise.

ld> India is a major consumer of Rifampicin,

(e) The various policy measures un dertaken by Government in line with the Drug Policy have resulted in build ing up a domestic base for the produc tion of Rifampicin.

(f) and (g) The manufacturers of Rifampicin from the basic stage are M/s. Gujarat Themis Biosyn Limited (GTPL) and M/s. Lupin Chemicals Limited. Their production was as t fallowing:—

(Quantity in tonnes)

	April—June	
	1993	1994
1. GTBL . .	1.807	18.145
2. Lupin. . .	1.210	18.520

Decision to Close Down FP&AKD

2289. UK. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE;

WiU the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not taken any decision to close down the Fertilize; Promotion & Agricultural Research Division (FP&ARD) of HFC and that for 1994-95 the expendi ture on FP&ARD staff will be met out of the overall budget provisions of HFC;

(b) whether jt is a fact that the Board of Directors of HFC have decided to close down FP&ARD and a clearance for the same has been sought by the Chairman of HFC from Government; if so, what was the role of Go-eniment's representatives in the Board; and

(c) (he reasons for which the HFC Board took such a decision in isolation when HFC till date could not offer a 'revival scheme to BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO); (a) Government bas not taken any decision to close down Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP&ARD) of HFC. The Expenditure on FP&ARD staff is being met out of the overall budget provision of HFC,

(b) and (c) The Board of Directors of HFC considered the matter in their meeting held on 9.2.1992 and unanimously resolved that in view of the critical financial position of the . Company; attempt should be mad$_c$ io find alternative employment for the staff working in FP&ARD; failing alternative employment within six months, the employees may be retired/discharged/ retrenched in accordance with the rules. By that time, the C°mpany bad not been referred to the BIFR. However, no staff was retrenched. The matter was again considered by the Board in March, 1993, and the Board took note of the fact that the Company management had s;;nt $_a$ detailed note to the Government bringing out the difficultiees jn continuing with the FP&ARD without any grant from the Government/external funding agencies. The Board, however, directed that the management may continue using the existing staff of FP&ARD and Incur minimum possible expenditure •ill the decision of the Government was conveyed to the Company.

***Hate* of Natural Gas to Prodrce Urea**

2290. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMI CALS AND FERTILIZERS be> pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which natural gas is made available to fertilizer plants for preparing urea;

•*b)* th$_e$ cost of urea-production; and

(c) what is the conversion cost of urea in other countries of the world, and details of the cost of each component of urea separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (al At pesent. the price of natural gas supplied to ferlilizer plants at landfall point is Rs. 1750.00 per thousand cubic metres, excluding rovaltv. sales tax and transport charges. For gas supplied on HUT pipeline, trans-port charges *(S*> 'Rs-. 850.00 per thausand cubic metres are payable in eddition. The price of gas in the North East region is Rs. 1000/- per thousand cubic metres. A discount upto a maximum cf Rs. 400/- per thousand cubic metres is also available in the North East on a case-basis.

(b) The cost of production of urea by indigenous manufacturers varies from unit to unit depending upon the installed capacity, technology and feedstock used, as also the vintage of the unit. However, the current weighted average retention price (i.e. cost of production plus reasonable return on networth as determined by the Government for each unit) of urea is about Rs. 4900/- per tonne.

'c1 The details of cost of production of urea jn other countries is not available as the foreign suppliers do not normally divulge these facts.

Impact of Decentralisation of imports & Decontrol of Fertilizers on Fertilizer Industry

2291. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIH-LA; Will the Minister $_0$f CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

ta) whether Government have made any critical analysis of the impact on the production and consumption scenario of fertilizers and overall setback tr} the fertilizer industry with the hike in the prices followed by decentralisation of imports besides decontrol of phospha-tic and potassic fertilizers;

(bl if so, the details thereof; and

fc) what measures are contemptable "by Government to resolve the problems of the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTTLIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO); (a) to (c1 Decontrol of p^{r}ices of phosohatic and potassic fertilizers led to increase in their prices *ra the* open market, resulting in lower off-fake. Lower off-take, couped wjtTt